

Examination and allowance of new claims 23-32 is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been retained herewith for continuity purposes, but Applicant intends to cancel claim 1 upon receipt of indication of allowability of claims 23-32.

The present invention properly embraces both malignant and non-malignant cells.

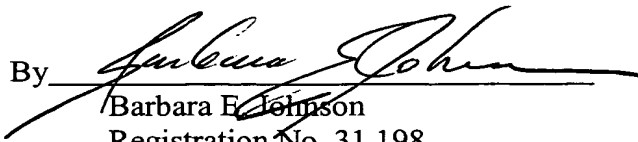
The present claims (other than claim 1) differ from those of USSN 08/679,056 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,728,541) in that the presence of cellular markers, secreted factors or tumor anitgens is assessed. Additional related applications include USSN 09/040,161, *with C* Continuation-in-Part USSN 09/095,993 and Continuation-in-Part USSN 09/189,310. *claim* Claims 23-32 also differ from the issued claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,728,541 in that the particle size distribution of the specimen multicellular particulates is recited as between about 0.25 and about 1.5 mm<sup>3</sup>. *C appears*

If the Examiner has any question remaining prior to confirming the allowability of the new claims submitted herewith, the undersigned would very much appreciate a telephone call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON  
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By



Barbara E. Johnson  
Registration No. 31,198  
Attorney for Applicant  
700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818  
Telephone: (412) 471-8815  
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094